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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/709,391	Applicant(s) OSWALD ET AL.	
	Examiner SUMAN DEBNATH	Art Unit 2135	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-109 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-109 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/21/2005; 04/22/2005 & 12/05/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-109 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 29-30, 34-48, 54-55, 86-87, 89-103 and 109 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Buxton (Pub. No.: US 2003/0204856 A1).
4. As to claim 29, Buxton discloses a distributed media distribution system comprising: a plurality of clients having peer-to-peer connectivity to one another (FIG. 1, [0010], lines 6-10, [0012], lines 13-16); at least one server for processing a request from a first client for a particular media item ([0021], [0022], lines 1-11, [0043]), for determining a second client who has an encrypted copy of the desired media item at the server ([0022], lines 7-11, [0043], [0014], [0033], lines 16-21), and for arranging transfer of the encrypted copy of the desired media item from the second client to the first client ([0033], lines 5-13); and a client rendering device for decrypting the desired media item for use by an authorized user at the first client ([0033], lines 16-21).
5. As to claim 30, Buxton discloses wherein said media includes various file types ([0002]).

6. As to claim 34, Buxton discloses further comprising a catalog that may be displayed on a television device connected to a set-top box with broadband connectivity ([0012], lines 13-16, [0019]).
7. As to claim 35, Buxton discloses wherein the catalog is downloaded to the set-top box for display on the television device connected to the set-top box ([0019], [0012], lines 13-16).
- As to claim 36, Buxton discloses wherein said peer-to-peer connectivity comprises a peer-to-peer network operating on the Internet ([0016], lines 8-12).
8. As to claim 37, Buxton discloses wherein each client connects to the peer-to-peer network via a broadband connection ([0016]).
9. As to claim 38, Buxton discloses wherein the client rendering device is capable of decrypting encrypted media items and displaying them on a television device ([0033], lines 16-21).
10. As to claim 39, Buxton discloses wherein the client rendering device includes a set-top box having a hard disk for storing the requested media item that is transferred to the first client ([0037], [0012], lines 13-16, [0013]).
11. As to claim 40, Buxton discloses wherein the requested media item is stored on the hard disk only in encrypted form ([0019], [0033], [0031]).

12. As to claim 41, Buxton discloses wherein the set top box stores pre-loaded media items so as to facilitate distribution of media items ([0031], see also [0038]).

13. As to claim 42, Buxton discloses wherein the first client includes a network that shares broadband connectivity with the client rendering device ([0043]).

14. As to claim 43, Buxton discloses further comprising: a media server capable of transferring an encrypted copy of the desired media item to clients, if a copy is not already available from other clients ([0024], lines 4-8).

15. As to claim 44, Buxton discloses wherein the first client is allowed to use the requested media item for a limited period of time ([0032], lines 1-3).

16. As to claim 45, Buxton discloses wherein in response to the server receiving a request from a third client for the particular media item, the server arranges for transfer of the encrypted copy of the desired media item from the first client to the third client ([0043], [0033], FIG. 1).

17. As to claim 46, Buxton discloses wherein the server arranges for the transfer by scheduling the transfer of the encrypted copy to occur at a particular time ([0031], lines 15-19).

18. As to claim 47, Buxton discloses wherein the server includes a customer management subsystem for tracking and managing customers ([0032]).

19. As to claim 48, Buxton discloses wherein the server is in communication with a repository of digital media, so that the server may direct transfer of the requested media item from the repository as needed ([0024]).

20. As to claim 54, Buxton discloses further comprising: a digital media pass that may be purchased online to allow access to the desired media item ([0032], [0016]).

21. As to claim 55, Buxton discloses wherein the digital media pass authorizes issuance to the first client of a decryption key enabling decryption and playback of the desired media item ([0032], [0016]).

22. As to claim 86, Buxton discloses a distributed media distribution system comprising: a plurality of clients having peer-to-peer connectivity to one another (FIG. 1, [0010], lines 6-10, [0012], lines 13-16); at least one server for processing a request from a first client for a particular media item ([0021], [0022], lines 1-11, [0043]), for determining a second client who has a protected copy of the desired media item at the server ([0022], lines 7-11, [0043], [0014], [0033], lines 16-21), and for arranging transfer of the protected copy of the desired media item from the second client to the first client ([0033], lines 5-13); and a client rendering device for storing a protected copy of the desired media item at the first client and rendering the desired media item to an authorized user at the first client ([0033], lines 16-21, see also [0031]).

23. As to claim 87, Buxton discloses wherein said media includes various file types ([0002]).

24. As to claim 89, Buxton discloses further comprising a Web server for displaying a catalog of media items available, and for receiving user input from the first client for selecting one of the media items available from the catalog ([0021], lines 1-7, [0022]).

25. As to claim 90, Buxton discloses further comprising a catalog that may be displayed on a television device connected to a set-top box with broadband connectivity ([0012], lines 13-16, [0019]).

26. As to claim 91, Buxton discloses wherein the catalog is downloaded to the set-top box for display on the television device connected to the set-top box ([0012], lines 13-16, [0019]).

27. As to claim 92, Buxton discloses wherein said peer-to-peer connectivity comprises a peer-to-peer network operating on the Internet ([0016], lines 8-12).

28. As to claim 93, Buxton discloses wherein each client connects to the peer-to-peer network via a broadband connection ([0016]).

29. As to claim 94, Buxton discloses wherein the client rendering device is capable of displaying media items on a television device ([0019], [0012], lines 13-16).

30. As to claim 95, Buxton discloses wherein the client rendering device includes a set-top box having a hard disk for storing the protected copy of the requested media item that is transferred to the first client ([0037], [0012], lines 13-16, [0013])

31. As to claim 96, Buxton discloses wherein the protected copy of the requested media item is stored on the hard disk in encrypted form ([0019], [0033], [0031], [0038]).

32. As to claim 97, Buxton discloses wherein the first client includes a network that shares broadband connectivity with the client rendering device ([0043], FIG. 1).

33. As to claim 98, Buxton discloses further comprising: a media server capable of transferring a protected copy of the desired media item to a client, if a protected copy is not available from other clients ([0024], lines 4-8).

34. As to claim 99, Buxton discloses wherein the first client is allowed to use the requested media item for a limited period of time ([0032], lines 1-3).

35. As to claim 100, Buxton discloses wherein in response to the server receiving a request from a third client for the particular media item, the server arranges for transfer of a protected copy of the desired media item from the first client to the third client ([0043], [0033], FIG. 1).

36. As to claim 101, Buxton discloses wherein the server arranges for the transfer by scheduling the transfer of the protected copy to occur at a particular time ([0031], lines 15-19).

37. As to claim 102, Buxton discloses wherein the server includes a customer management subsystem for tracking and managing customers ([0032]).

38. As to claim 103, Buxton discloses wherein the server is in communication with a repository of digital media, so that the server may direct transfer of the requested media item from the repository as needed ([0024]).

39. As to claim 107, Buxton doesn't explicitly discloses wherein the client rendering device includes an interface for indicating that a given desired media item has completed transfer and is available for use. However, Harris discloses wherein the client rendering device includes an interface for indicating that a given desired media item has completed transfer and is available for use ([0021]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Harris in order to provide a feature so that the user can monitor the progress of a video image or any media file. Furthermore, one would be motivated to provide such a feature so the users will not try to view a content until it's delivered.

40. As to claim 108, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein the interface indicates transfer progress for any items that are currently being transferred. However, Harris discloses wherein the interface indicates transfer progress for any items that are currently being transferred ([0021]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Harris in order to provide a feature so that the user can monitor the progress of a

video image or any media file. Furthermore, one would be motivated to provide such a feature so the users will not try to view a content until it's delivered.

41. As to claim 109, Buxton discloses further comprising: a digital media pass that may be purchased online to allow access to the protected copy of the desired media item ([0032], [0016]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

42. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

43. Claims 1-5, 7-22, 25-28, 52-53 and 107-108 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buxton and further in view of Harris et al. (Pub. No.: US 2004/0267812 A1) (hereinafter "Harris").

44. As to claim 1, Buxton discloses a method for distributing media comprising: receiving at a server a request from a first client for a particular media item ([0021], [0022], lines 1-11, [0043]), said first client having broadband connectivity to other clients ([0012], lines 13-16, [0022], [0043]); at the server, determining a second client who has an encrypted copy of the desired media item ([0022], lines 7-11, [0043], [0014], [0033], lines 16-21); transferring the encrypted copy of the desired media item from the second client to the first client ([0033], lines 5-13, see also [0022], lines 7-11, [0043]); and in response to receiving payment authorization from the first client, decrypting the desired media item for use at the first client ([0032]). Although Buxton discloses the encrypted copy has been transferred to the first client

([0033]) and media data being displayed at user's system which would teach on indicating desired media item is now available ([0027], lines 32-36), Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose indicating at the first client that the desired media item is now available.

However, Harris discloses indicating at the first client that the desired media item is now available ([0021]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Harris in order to provide a feature so that the user can monitor the progress of a video image or any media file. Furthermore, one would be motivated to provide such a feature so the users will not try to view contents until it's delivered.

45. As to claim 2, Buxton discloses wherein said media includes various file types ([0002]).

46. As to claim 3, although Buxton discloses a video-on demand peer- to-peer sharing of movies ([0010]), Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein said media includes selected ones of audio and video files. However, Harris discloses wherein said media includes selected ones of audio and video files ([0044]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Harris in order to reduce transfer costs and offer security enforcing copyrights on a public network.

47. As to claim 4, Buxton discloses further comprising: pre-loading media items at clients so as to facilitate distribution of media items ([0031], see also [0019], [0033]).

48. As to claim 5, Buxton discloses wherein the receiving step includes: displaying a catalog of media items available; and receiving user input from the first client for selecting one of the media items available from the catalog ([0021], lines 1-7, [0022]).

49. As to claim 7, Buxton discloses wherein the catalog comprises an online catalog that may be displayed on a television device connected to a set-top box with broadband connectivity ([0012], lines 13-16, [0019]).

50. As to claim 8, Buxton discloses wherein the catalog is downloaded to a set-top box with broadband connectivity for display at a television device connected to the set-top box ([0019], [0012], lines 13-16).

51. As to claim 9, Buxton discloses wherein said broadband connectivity includes peer-to-peer connectivity between clients ([0016], lines 8-12).

52. As to claim 10, Buxton discloses wherein the peer-to-peer connectivity includes a peer-to-peer network operating on the Internet ([0016]).

53. As to claim 11, Buxton discloses wherein the first client includes a local device capable of decrypting encrypted media items and displaying them on a television device ([0033], lines 16-21).

54. As to claim 12, Buxton discloses wherein the local device includes a set-top box having a hard disk for storing the requested media item that is transferred to the first client ([0037], [0012], lines 13-16, [0013], see also [0038]).

55. As to claim 13, Buxton discloses wherein the requested media item is stored on the hard disk only in encrypted form ([0019], [0033], [0031]).

56. As to claim 14, Buxton discloses wherein said transferring step includes transferring the encrypted copy to a storage device connected to a set-top box capable of decrypting encrypted media items and rendering them on a television device at the first client ([0033], [0038]).

57. As to claim 15, Buxton discloses wherein the first client includes a network that allows a set-top box at the first client to share broadband connectivity ([0043]).

58. As to claim 16, Buxton discloses further comprising: transferring an encrypted copy of the desired media item from a media server, if a copy of the requested media item is not available from other clients ([0024], lines 4-8).

59. As to claim 17, Buxton discloses further comprising: allowing the first client to use the requested media item for a limited period of time, after receipt of the payment authorization ([0032], lines 1-3).

60. As to claim 18, Buxton discloses further comprising: receiving at the server a request from a third client for the particular media item; and transferring the encrypted copy of the desired media item from the first client to the third client ([0043], [0033], FIG. 1).

61. As to claim 19, Buxton discloses wherein the transferring step includes: scheduling transfer of the encrypted copy of the desired media item to occur at a particular time ([0031], lines 15-19).

62. As to claim 20, Buxton discloses wherein the server includes a customer management subsystem for tracking and managing customers ([0032]).

63. As to claim 21, Buxton discloses wherein the server is in communication with at least one repository of digital media, so that the server may direct transfer of the requested media item from said at least one repository as needed ([0024]).

64. As to claim 22, Buxton discloses wherein said at least one repository comprises a plurality of servers, with each server storing a subset of the available digital media, such that a subset of the plurality of servers has at least one copy of each media item ([0024]).

65. As to claim 25, Buxton discloses wherein the transferring step includes: scheduling transfer of multiple media items to the first client from multiple other clients ([0031]).

66. As to claim 26, Buxton discloses wherein the transferring step includes: scheduling transfer of portions of a media item to the first client from multiple other clients ([0031], [0043]).

67. As to claim 27, Buxton discloses a computer-readable medium having processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1 (claim 51).

68. As to claim 28, Buxton discloses a downloadable set of processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1 ([0019], [0027]).

69. As to claim 52, Buxton doesn't explicitly discloses wherein the client rendering device includes an interface for indicating that a given desired media item has completed transfer and is available for use. However, Harris discloses wherein the client rendering device includes an interface for indicating that a given desired media item has completed transfer and is available for use ([0021]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Harris in order to provide a feature so that the user can monitor the progress of a video image or any media file. Furthermore, one would be motivated to provide such a feature so the users will not try to view a content until it's delivered.

70. As to claim 53, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein the interface indicates transfer progress for any items that are currently being transferred. However, Harris discloses wherein the interface indicates transfer progress for any items that are currently being transferred ([0021]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of

Buxton as taught by Harris in order to provide a feature so that the user can monitor the progress of a video image or any media file. Furthermore, one would be motivated to provide such a feature so the users will not try to view contents until it's delivered.

71. Claims 32-33, 49-51, 56-57, 59-85 and 104-106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buxton and further in view of Kleinpeter III et al. (Patent No.: US 6,907,463 B1) (hereinafter "Kleinpeter").

72. As to claim 32, Buxton discloses for receiving user input from the first client for selecting one of the media items available from the catalog ([0021], lines 1-7, [0022]). However, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose a Web server for displaying a catalog of media items available. However, Kleinpeter discloses a Web server for displaying a catalog of media items available (col. 4, lines 13-17, col. 3, lines 40-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to provide movie data through the internet in relatively cheaper price to the end users. Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to attract the global or extended community of users.

73. As to claim 33, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein the catalog comprises an online catalog accessible via a Web browser. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein the catalog comprises an online catalog accessible via a Web browser (col. 4, lines 13-17, col. 3, lines 40-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to provide movie data through

the internet in relatively cheaper price to the end users. Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to attract the global or extended community of users.

74. As to claim 49, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein the server receives a prioritized list establishing the first client's priority for receiving desired media items. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein the server receives a prioritized list establishing the first client's priority for receiving desired media items (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

75. As to claim 50, although Buxton discloses wherein the server arranges for transfer of multiple media items to the first client from multiple other clients ([0043]), Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose transfer is pursuant to the prioritized list. However, Kleinpeter discloses transfer is pursuant to the prioritized list (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

76. As to claim 51, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein higher priority items on the prioritized list are transferred before any lower priority items. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein higher priority items on the prioritized list are transferred before any lower priority items (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was

made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

77. As to claim 56, Buxton discloses a method for secure delivery of media content via the Internet, the method comprising: providing at a server a catalog of media items available in encrypted format from a plurality of devices having broadband connectivity to the Internet (FIG. 1, [0010], lines 6-10, [0012], lines 13-16, [0016]); transferring an encrypted copy of the particular media item from said at least one second device to the first device ([0022], lines 7-11, [0043], [0014], [0033]); and in response to a request to purchase the particular media item transferred to the first device ([0032]), providing a decryption key to the first device enabling the encrypted copy of the particular media item to be played at the first device ([0033], lines 5-13).

Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose receiving a priority list from a first device representing a prioritized list of media items requested by the first device from the catalog; scheduling delivery to the first device of a particular media item on the priority list from at least one second device having an encrypted copy of the particular media item; However, Kleinpeter discloses receiving a priority list from a first device representing a prioritized list of media items requested by the first device from the catalog (col. 4, lines 13-17, col. 3, lines 40-41); scheduling delivery to the first device of a particular media item on the priority list from at least one second device having an encrypted copy of the particular media item (col. 4, lines 13-17, col. 3, lines 40-41);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to provide movie data through

the internet in relatively cheaper price to the end users. Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to attract the global or extended community of users.

78. As to claim 57, Buxton discloses wherein said media items include various file types ([0002]).

79. As to claim 59, Buxton discloses wherein said plurality of devices having broadband connectivity includes a plurality of client devices having peer-to-peer connectivity to one another ([0016], [0043], FIG. 1).

80. As to claim 60, Buxton discloses wherein said plurality of devices having broadband connectivity includes at least one server having encrypted copies of media items for supply to client devices ([0021], [0022], lines 1-11, [0043], see also [0024]).

As to claim 61, Buxton discloses further comprising: pre-loading encrypted copies of media items at said plurality of devices having broadband connectivity ([0031]).

81. As to claim 62, Buxton discloses wherein said plurality of devices having broadband connectivity includes a client set-top box having broadband connectivity through a network ([0019], [0012], lines 13-16, [0016]).

82. As to claim 63, Buxton discloses wherein said catalog is displayed on a television connected to the client set-top box ([0019], [0012], lines 13-16, [0016]).

83. As to claim 64, Buxton discloses wherein said catalog is downloaded from the server and stored locally on a database at the client set-top box ([0034], [0041], see also ([0021], lines 1-7, [0022])).

84. As to claim 65, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein said catalog is a catalog available on the Internet and accessible via a Web browser. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein said catalog is a catalog available on the Internet and accessible via a Web browser (col. 4, lines 13-17, col. 3, lines 40-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to provide movie data through the internet in relatively cheaper price to the end users. Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to attract the global or extended community of users.

85. As to claim 66, Buxton discloses wherein the first device comprises a client set-top box having a hard disk for storing encrypted media items ([0038]).

86. As to claim 67, Buxton discloses wherein said set-top box includes a user interface for issuing a request to play an encrypted media item available on the set-top box's hard disk ([0027]).

87. As to claim 68, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes comparing the priority list received from the first device with media items available on the first device, so as to determine the particular media item to be delivered to the first device. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes comparing the priority list received from the first device

with media items available on the first device, so as to determine the particular media item to be delivered to the first device (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

88. As to claim 69, Buxton discloses further comprising: maintaining a database listing copies of encrypted media items available on each of said plurality of devices ([0043]).

89. As to claim 70, Buxton discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes determining at least one second device having a copy of said particular media item based upon consulting the database ([0043], [0024]).

90. As to claim 71, Buxton discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes determining that the first device is authorized to receive delivery of the particular media item ([0032]-[0033]).

91. As to claim 72, Buxton discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes scheduling delivery of portions of the particular media item from a plurality of second devices ([0031], lines 15-19, FIG. 3).

92. As to claim 73, Buxton discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes determining a particular portion of the particular media item to be sent by each of said plurality of second devices ([0031], lines 15-19, [0043], FIG. 3).

93. As to claim 74, Buxton discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes determining whether to deliver the particular media item from a server repository or from a peer client having a copy of the particular media item ([0024], [0031]).

94. As to claim 75, Buxton discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes scheduling delivery from a client set-top box having a copy of the particular media item, so as to conserve server resources ([0043], [0022]).

95. As to claim 76, Buxton discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes scheduling a time for delivery of the particular media item to the first device ([0031], lines 15-19).

96. As to claim 77, Buxton discloses further comprising: receiving a priority list from a third device requesting said particular media item; and transferring the encrypted copy of the particular media item from the first device to the third device ([0043], [0033], FIG. 1).

97. As to claim 78, Buxton discloses transferring a portion of the encrypted copy of the particular media item from the first device and a portion of the encrypted copy of the particular media item from said at least one second device to the third device ([0043], FIG. 3). Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose receiving a priority

list from a third device requesting said particular media item. However, Kleinpeter discloses receiving a priority list from a third device requesting said particular media item (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

98. As to claim 79, Buxton discloses wherein said step of scheduling delivery includes scheduling delivery based upon optimizing delivery of media items to a plurality of devices requesting media items ([0031]).

99. As to claim 80, Buxton discloses wherein said step of transferring an encrypted copy of the particular media item includes transferring portions of the particular media item from a plurality of second devices (FIG. 3, [0043], [0038]).

100. As to claim 81, Buxton discloses wherein said step of providing a decryption key includes providing a decryption key valid for a limited period of time ([0032]-[0033]).

101. As to claim 82, Buxton discloses wherein said step of providing a decryption key includes: specifying a viewing period comprising a limited period of time during which the first device may decrypt and playback a media item; and providing a decryption key to the first device only during the specified viewing period ([0032]-[0033]).

102. As to claim 83, Buxton discloses wherein said first device comprises a client set-top box capable of decrypting encrypted media items and rendering them on a connected television device ([0019], [0012], lines 13-16, [0017]).

103. As to claim 84, Buxton discloses a computer-readable medium having processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 56 ([0019], [0012], lines 13-16, [0017]).

104. As to claim 85, Buxton discloses a downloadable set of processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 56 ([0019], [0012], lines 13-16, [0017]).

105. As to claim 104, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein the server receives a prioritized list establishing the first client's priority for receiving desired media items. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein the server receives a prioritized list establishing the first client's priority for receiving desired media items (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

106. As to claim 105, although Buxton discloses wherein the server arranges for transfer of multiple media items to the first client from multiple other clients ([0043]), Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose transfer is pursuant to the prioritized list. However, Kleinpeter discloses transfer is pursuant to the prioritized list (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

107. As to claim 106, Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein higher priority items on the prioritized list are transferred before any lower priority items. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein higher priority items on the prioritized list are transferred before any lower priority items (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

108. Claims 31 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buxton and further in view of Schleicher et al. (Pub. No.: US 2002/0138576 A1) (hereinafter "Schleicher").

109. As to claim 31, although Buxton discloses a video-on demand peer- to-peer sharing of movies ([0010]), Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein said media includes selected ones of audio and video files. However, Schleicher discloses wherein said media includes selected ones of audio and video files ([0022]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Schleicher in order to reduce transfer costs and offer security enforcing copyrights on a public network.

110. As to claim 88, although Buxton discloses a video-on demand peer- to-peer sharing of movies ([0010]), Buxton doesn't explicitly disclose wherein said media includes selected ones of audio and video files. However, Schleicher discloses wherein said media includes selected ones of audio and video files ([0022]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton as taught by Schleicher in order to reduce transfer costs and offer security enforcing copyrights on a public network.

111. Claims 6 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buxton and further in view of Harris and Kleinpeter.

112. As to claim 6, neither Buxton nor Harris explicitly discloses wherein the catalog comprises an online catalog accessible via a Web browser. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein the catalog comprises an online catalog accessible via a Web browser (col. 4, lines 13-17, col. 3, lines 40-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton and Harris as taught by Kleinpeter in order to provide movie data through the internet in relatively cheaper price to the end users. Furthermore, one would be motivated to do so in order to attract the global or extended community of users.

113. As to claim 23, neither Buxton nor Harris explicitly discloses wherein the receiving step includes: receiving at a server a list establishing the first client's priorities for receiving desired media items. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein the receiving step includes: receiving at a server a list establishing

the first client's priorities for receiving desired media items (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton and Harris as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

114. As to claim 24, neither Buxton nor Harris explicitly discloses wherein higher priority items on the list are transferred before any lower priority items. However, Kleinpeter discloses wherein higher priority items on the list are transferred before any lower priority items (col. 1, lines 58-60, col. 6, lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton and Harris as taught by Kleinpeter in order to utilize the network bandwidth in a efficient way without wasting end user's viewable time period.

115. Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buxton and further in view of Kleinpeter and Schleicher.

116. As to claim 58, although Buxton discloses a video-on demand peer- to-peer sharing of movies ([0010]), neither Buxton nor Kleinpeter explicitly discloses wherein said media includes selected ones of audio and video files. However, Schleicher discloses wherein said media includes selected ones of audio and video files ([0022]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the teaching of Buxton and Kleinpeter as taught by Schleicher in order to reduce transfer costs and offer security enforcing copyrights on a public network.

117. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Conclusion

118. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUMAN DEBNATH whose telephone number is (571)270-1256. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on 571 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2135

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. D./

Examiner, Art Unit 2135

/KIMYEN VU/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2135